(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian textile industry is unable to meet the export oriented demand even in the wake of increased prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the immediate steps being taken by Government for the solution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2009-10, the cotton production in the country has been estimated at 295.00 lakh bales as against 290.00 lakh bales of last year. With carry forward stock of 71.50 lakh bales of the previous year and estimated imports of 7 lakh bales the total availability of cotton in the country during 2009-10 has been placed at 305 lakh bales with an estimated export of 55 lakh bales. Thus, even after meeting the domestic and export requirement, there is ample availability of cotton in the country and the CAB has estimated carry over stock for the next year at 68.50 lakh bales. Hence, the question of textile industry facing the crisis on account of cotton availability does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

Programmes for strengthening textile industry

3076. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had worked on several programmes which include strengthening industry, providing funds for modernization and technology upgradation and making textile parks operational which were started during 100 days of Government;

(b) whether additional initiatives have been taken for skill development and welfare of people engaged in handicrafts, handlooms, powerlooms and sericulture sectors; and

(c) if so, to what extent these measures have helped in textiles and in improving its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In order to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile mills, Government of India had launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute Industries with effect from 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years which was subsequently extended upto 31.3.2007 and further extended during Eleventh Five Year Plan. In its operational life span has propelled investment of more than Rs. 1,79,833 crores upto 30.6.2009. In fact, the allocation for 2007-08 under TUFS was Rs. 1090 crore which has been enhanced to Rs. 2890 crore in 2009-10.

In order to provide infrastructure support, the Government of India has initiated the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) with effect from August, 2005. One more integrated Textile Park, namely Gujarat Eco Textile Park, Surat, Gujarat has been inaugurated on September 09, 2009 and production has started in 13 Textile Parks. Grant amounting to Rs. 645.68 crore has been released.

(b) and (c) During the Eleventh Plan, the Government of India has introduced five schemes in the Handloom Sector: Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme that provides for skill upgradation and marketing support; Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme that provides two types of insurances *i.e.*; Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers for Indoor as well as OPD treatment and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana that provides coverage of life; Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme that provides Market support by way of organizing events like National Handloom Expo, Special Expos, District Level Events and also support for International Exhibitions and Mill Gate Price Scheme that provides availability of mill spindled yarn at mill gate price to the handloom weavers and finally the Diversified Handloom Development Scheme that provides strengthening of Weavers Service Centres.

The Ministry of Textiles also has a skill development programme for the welfare of people engaged in sericulture industry. This is implemented by the Ministry in coordination with the State Governments. The skill development programmes have enabled the silk industry to increase the production, productivity and improve the quality of silk produced. Resultantly, the export earnings from silk goods during the last two years have surged to an appreciable level. During the year 2008-09, the export earnings from silk goods was Rs. 3178.19 crores against the earning of Rs. 2727.87 crores during the year 2007-08, registering an increase of 16.5%.

Due to initiatives taken by the Government of India with reference to skill development and welfare of people engaged in powerloom sector, a total of 299497 weavers/workers have been covered during April, 2007 to October, 2009 under Group Insurance Scheme for which the Government of India's Share of premium is Rs. 3.62 crore.

Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) are being provided machines/equipments at Government cost to upgrade the skills of manpower/diversify the activities with purpose of Powerloom Cluster development. During the last year, 3 nos. of Air Jet Looms, 2 nos. of Computerized Embroidery Machines, 12 nos. of Textile Costing and Design Software, 15 nos. of Computers and Teaching aids involving the total cost of Rs. 127.76 lakh have been provided to different Powerloom Service Centres. In addition, the funds to the tune of Rs. 52.46 lakhs have been provided to the PSCs of Textile Research Associations (TRAs) for setting up Apparel Training facilities and the funds of Rs. 38.66 lakh have also been released for construction of building for Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA), PSC at Guwahati.

The Government has introduced various measures from time to time to strengthen textiles sector in general and to meet the adverse effect of global slowdown. It is not possible to quantify the extent of impact of these measures on exports at this stage.

Depleting export targets

3077. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the textile export targets set for the last four years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export targets have not been achieved in the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) in view of the depleting targets, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to lower the ambitious US $ 50 billion by 2010 target by 40 per cent

(e) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that the decline of exports in textiles is also due to China exporting inferior quality textiles branding as 'Made in India' to African countries; and

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Textile export targets set For the last four years and export targets achieved are tabulated below:—

(in US$ Million)

Year	Target	Achievement
2005-06	15565	17080
2006-07	19730	19146
2007-08	25060	22130
2008-09	26556	20940

There has been a shortfall in achieving the target's as may be seen from the table above. The reasons are attributable to the high and persistent appreciation of the Indian rupee *vis-à-vis* the US dollar during 2007-08 leading to lower realization for the textiles sector. This phase was immediately followed by onset of global economic slowdown and recession in the major markets for India's textiles exports, leading to lower sales in these markets. However, there is no proposal to reduce the target for India's exports of textiles and clothing by 40 per cent.

(e) and (f) There was some press report on the Chinese textile products being exported to Nigeria with 'Made-in-India' labels. However, no representation from the Indian textiles industry/association/trade body/export promotion council has been received so far in this regard.